

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8517

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 14287

LIMDIS

FOR SHLAUDEMAN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, MX

SUBJECT: BELIZE

1. LAST NIGHT DURING MY DINNER FOR JLP, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM PANCHO AGUIRRE WHO IS CURRENTLY IN SAN SALVADOR WORKING ON SOME POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO BELIZE DISPUTE ON BEHALF OF ORFILA AND PURPORTEDLY WITH THE BLESSINGS OF JLP. HE ASKED THAT THE MESSAGE BE PASSED TO JLP AND ALSO TO YOU. AS HE WAS TALKING IN "CODE", THE MESSAGE IS NOT TOO CLEAR BUT MORE OR LESS AS FOLLOWS: AGUIRRE HAS HAD EXCELLENT ASSISTANCE FROM PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF EL SALVADOR WHO HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL WITH GUATEMALANS. THANKS TO INTERVENTION OF SALVADORIAN PRESIDENT, GUATEMALA HAS SHOWN FLEXIBILITY AND A POSSIBLE TRAGIC SITUATION MAY BE OVERCOME. IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SOME EXTERNAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOLEDO(WHICH I UNDERSTAND IS IN GUATEMALA NEAR THE BELIEZ FRONTIER) AND AGUIRRE WISHED THIS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF BOTH JLP AND YOURSELF.

2. APPARENTLY THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH JLP WITH ORFILA DURING HIS VISIT HERE A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO. WHEN I PASSED THIS SOMEWHAT GARBLED MESSAGE, JLP

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SEEMED GRATIFIED OBSERVING THAT IT WAS VERY MUCH IN THE

INTEREST OF MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND INDEED THE
HEMISPHERE TO SOLVE THE BELIZE PROBLEM. HE SAW THIS
(A) AS A PROBLEM OF NATIONAL SURVIVAL FOR THE BELIZE
PEOPLE, (B) AN INTENSE DOMESTIC, POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR
GUATEMALA, AND (C) A PROBLEM OF PRINCIPLE FOR MEXICO.
MEXICO HAD NO TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS REGARDING BELIZE
AND IT HAD MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF WORRIES IN DEVELOPING
ITS OWN PRESENT TERRITORY. IT WOULD BE FORTUNATE IF AN
OAS COVER FOR SOME SOLUTION COULD BE PROVIDED AND THIS
IN ITSELF WOULD MERIT SOME EXTERNAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
HIS MAIN PREOCCUPATION WAS THAT THE MATTER BE SOLVED
ON A POLITICALLY NEGOTIATED BASIS RATHER THAN ON A
HISTORICAL LEGALISTIC BASIS. "IF WE GO BACK TO OLD
SPANISH COLONIAL DOCUMENTS, ALL OF US ARE IN TROUBLE
--AND THIS IS NOT REALISTIC."
JOVA

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